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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Islamic Iran Fully Prepared to Thwart Any Would-Be Aggressors

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

“Prepare against them whatever you can of [military] power and war-horses, awing thereby the enemy of Allah, and your enemy, and others besides them, whom you do not know, but Allah knows them. And whatever you spend in the way of Allah will be repaid to you in full, and you will not be wronged.” – (Holy Qur'an 8:60)

Yesterday, the joint air defence exercise, codenamed ‘Guardians of the Horizon of Velayat-99’, started in Iran, by the air defence units of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), in order to test the readiness for defending the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic against any would be aggressor.

The spectacular exercises being held over a wide area of the country will test the prowess of various types of Iranian-made missile systems, radars, electronic warfare equipment, and communication equipment to counter aerial threats in low, medium and high altitudes.

Iran's impressive fighter jets, bombers and drones are to demonstrate their capabilities during the war games, in accordance with the guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for safeguarding the country, its people, their faith, and revolutionary values, at a time when mischief-mongers are trying to destabilize the region.

As a matter of fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the cynosure of the eyes of the independent-minded people and governments of the neighbourhood desirous of protecting their countries from the US and its clients, such as the Zionists, and the terrorists.

The question of defence occupies a special place in Islamic law. In fact, a progressive and compact system cannot be complete without such provisions.

Owing to its misinterpretation by ill-informed persons, the inclusion of the question of Jihad in Islamic teachings has given rise to much hostile propaganda and has provided a pretext to its opponents to say that Islam is a religion of force.

Nothing could be further from the truth. As the nature and aim of defence become clear, not only the hollowness of such criticism becomes obvious, but also the depth, purity and dynamism of the teachings of Islam and their capacity to serve human society in varying circumstances becomes evident.

Jihad literally means effort and striving. In Islamic sources this word has been used in the sense of every kind of intellectual, physical, cultural, industrial, economic, financial, moral, and artistic efforts for the promotion of divine and human objectives.

The fight against the mischievous elements that consider the spread of a system of justice and truth a threat to their devilish interests and take a stand to exterminate it, is unavoidable.

So long as such harmful tendencies exist, the supporters of truth and justice have no other choice but to defend their objectives and own existence, the first and foremost of which is their homeland, and faith.

In fact, war is not desired by true believers, but is forced upon them and against their will; hence Islam's emphasis on keeping the defence readiness to thwart the evil plots of the enemies of humanity.

The Holy Qur'an, which commands Muslims to be ready for defence, also says that if the enemy lays down arms and shows peaceful intention, the Muslims have no right to be hostile to them.

Perhaps no other religion has expressed its peaceful disposition in such clear terms. The most important aim of defence in Islam is protection of the Divine system of truth and justice and the preservation of its outstanding features.

In other words, whenever national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity are endangered, it is the duty of Muslims to stand up to the enemies and defend themselves.

Though expenditure on armaments is considered least desirable and most unproductive, Islam has considered it not only essential in the case of need, but also has named it financial Jihad.

Islam, however, forbids every resort to inhuman means of fighting such as microbial warfare, use of nuclear weapons, destruction of cattle, crops and irrigation system, or the killing and injuring unarmed personnel.

The Islamic Republic of Iran thus fully follows the instructions of the holy Qur'an and the practical model set by Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and his First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) in matters of defence, and on no account will show any lax attitude in improving its defences.

FM Zarif: Regional Turmoil Will Be Everyone's Turmoil



Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy (IRGCN) vessels inspect the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton during a routine patrol in the Persian Gulf in April.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has called for collective co-operation among Iran's neighbors to establish “inclusive dialogue and security networking” in the region.

He made the remarks in an address to a virtual debate of the United Nations Security Council titled “Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Comprehensive Review of the Situation in the Persian Gulf”.

“Security is contingent on a reliance on our own peoples and cooperation with our own neighbors. We need collective efforts by regional countries to establish inclusive dialogue and security networking in this region,” he said.

“Otherwise, we will all be engulfed in turmoil for generations to come,” he added, warning that

turmoil in the region “will be everyone's turmoil.”

He said the most sophisticated weaponry can be purchased by money but “security and stability can never be bought.”

Zarif also stressed the importance of implementing Iran's peace initiative to promote security in the Persian Gulf, dubbed Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE).

Addressing a speech at the UN General Assembly meeting in September 2019, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani presented the HOPE initiative and invited all regional countries to participate in it.

Zarif said the region is in need of a “fundamental paradigm shift”.

“We need a strong region that precludes hegemonic illusions by any power— regional or global, a

strong region that requires home-grown political and territorial stability.”

In a strong region, he said, all neighbors would be able to exercise strategic self-restraint.

The region, instead, has been the scene of several wars, massive foreign military buildups, ensuing nightmare of extremism and terrorism, dangerous accumulation of the most sophisticated weaponry, and aggression and power projection by various actors, Zarif said.

He said the United States has “unsurprisingly” sold most of lethal armaments to the Persian Gulf states from 2014 to 2018.

“Yet, the military build-ups and hundreds of billions of dollars of arms sales have enhanced neither the security of the external powers, nor of the region.”

Iran Blasts Saudi ‘Crocodile Tears’ After Embargo Lifted

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) -- Iran has hit out at Saudi Arabia for shedding “crocodile tears” after a UN arms embargo on Tehran expired.

In a tweet, Iran's embassy here which is home to EU headquarters, said it is hypocritical of Saudi Arabia to voice alarm at the lifting of the embargo while its own purchases of American weapons have turned West Asia into a powder keg.

“It is a bitter irony though that a country that spends billions of dollars on weapons tramps around and sheds crocodile tears over the termination of UN arms restriction on 18 October,” the tweet said.

The decade-long arms ban on Iran was removed on Sunday under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The U.S. was overwhelmingly defeated at the Security Council in its attempt to extend the embargo in August.

Washington also declared a “snapback” of all UN sanctions against Iran last month which was roundly opposed by the JCPOA's European, Russian and Chinese signatories, either. The remaining parties to the JCPOA called Washington's move void and challenged its rationale that it was still a participant state to the nuclear accord, while it had unilaterally withdrawn from the deal in May 2018.

Saudi Arabia had on several occasions called on the UN to extend the arms embargo.

The Iranian diplomatic mission said, “Iran does NOT intend to join the arms race in West Asia which has stashed the region with American ‘beautiful weapons’.”

During his first foreign trip in 2017, President

Donald Trump boasted in Riyadh of his eagerness to sell “beautiful weapons” worth tens of billions of dollars to Qatar and other Persian Gulf Arab countries to create more jobs in the United States.

Referring to Riyadh's multi-billion military spending, the Iranian embassy said the regime has shed the blood of the Yemenis and turned the region into a weapons arsenal.

“In fact, Saudi Arabia is among the 5 largest military spenders in the world and has its hands soaked in innocent Yemeni blood. The enormous Saudi military expenditure in West Asia has turned the region into an arsenal ready to blow up,” it said.

Saudi Arabia spends the most on weapons in the region and the third-most in the world, behind the U.S. and China. In 2019, the kingdom's military expenditure stood at nearly \$80 billion.

Envoy Reiterates Iran's Sovereignty Over Three Islands

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has reiterated the Islamic Republic's sovereignty over three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, saying they have always been and will always remain Iranian.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of the UN Security Council, Majid Takht-Ravanchi was reacting to a series of recent accusations raised against Iran's regional role and attempts to dispute the country's sovereignty over the three Iranian islands.

Earlier at the session, Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah al-Hajraf urged Iran to

respond to the body's call to resolve the dispute over the islands through negotiations.

“Since the issue related to Iranian islands has been mentioned here, I have to say that Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb islands have always been part of Iran. These islands are Iranian and will remain so,” Takht-Ravanchi said in response.

The strategically-positioned islands have always been part of Iran, the proof of which can be found in and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid baseless claims to

the territories.

Takht-Ravanchi said Iran has played an incontestable role in ensuring energy security, commercial navigation and stability in the Persian Gulf region. “We will continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and security in this sensitive region.”

He said Iran's defensive power, including its missile program, stems from “geostrategic calculations and a significant historical experience.”

Iran, he added, is building up its defense capabilities in a bid to protect itself from crimes similar to those committed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-88 imposed war.

The Holy Qur'an

Do they not know that Allah accepts repentance from His servants and takes the alms, and that Allah is the Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful?

The Holy Qur'an (9.104)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:38
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	04:54
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:18

Zarif also said actors outside the region have been trying to take advantage of the regional disparities, unending rivalries, and new hegemonic illusions as opportunities to expand their military presence and to sell more weapons.

“The U.S. has deployed nearly 50,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region in 29 military installations with more than 300 combat aircraft,” he said.

Foreign forces, Zarif said, have for too long come to the region only to project their power and not to protect regional nations.

Zarif pointed to the main objectives of HOPE and said it aims to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region, promote mutual understanding and peaceful relations among all the Persian Gulf states, ensure the territorial integrity and inviolability of international boundaries of all Persian Gulf littoral states, cooperate in eradicating terrorism, extremism and sectarian tensions across the region, promote

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“During Saddam Hussein's eight-year aggression against Iran that was supported through different means by the U.S. and a number of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries, our cities were showered by Iraqi missiles and our people fell victim to chemical and other lethal weapons provided to Saddam mainly by the West. Simultaneously, unjust sanctions and restrictions deprived us of rudimentary means of self-defense. It is our responsibility now to prevent the recurrence of such appalling situation,” Takht-Ravanchi said.

Elsewhere in his address, the Iranian ambassador criticized

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